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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/042,835	01/08/2002	Dawn L.M. Krysiak	5579	6548
30173	7590	10/07/2003	EXAMINER	
GENERAL MILLS, INC. P.O. BOX 1113 MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55440			TRAN LIEN, THUY	
		ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER	
		1761		

DATE MAILED: 10/07/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/042,835	KRYSIAK ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Lien T Tran	1761

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 25 July 2003.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.
- 4) Claim(s) 1-50 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-50 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ 6) Other: _____

Claims 1 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention.

In the amendment filed July 25, 2003, applicant amends claims 1 and 11 to add the limitation of "non-puffed laminated cereal pieces". This limitation is not supported by the original disclosure. The specification does not disclose that the cereal pieces are non-puffed. Paragraph 53 on page 11 discloses puffing. In the amendment applicant amends the specification to delete the term puffing. However, such disclosure forms part of the original disclosure and does not provide support for the new limitation. There is no other disclosure in the specification about the cereal pieces being unpuffed.

The 112 second paragraph rejection of claims 1,11,18,19,21,24 and 50 is hereby withdrawn.

The 103 rejection of claims 1-50 over the Brown et al reference is hereby withdrawn due to the new limitation added to claims 1 and 11.

Claims 1-2,4-5,7,8,9,10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Leibred et al (5770248).

Leibred discloses multiplayer shredded whole grain cereal. The cereal product comprises a plurality of layers of strands or net-like sheet. The dough laminates are cut into pieces and are baked. Generally, the total number of sheets may range from about 6-21. The product may be dried, baked and toasted. The final product has a

moisture content of less than about 5%. The baked product can be topped with salt or other flavoring . Additives or filling may be incorporated by depositing them between shred layers during formation of the dough laminate. (see col. 2,4,8 and 9-10)

Leibfred et al do not disclose the thickness of the layer, the piece count and the bulk density.

It would have been obvious to make the pieces of any size so that the piece count per gram of product can vary; changing the size would have been an obvious matter of choice as it is known in the art that cereal products come in many different sizes. It would also have been obvious to change the thickness of the sheets and subsequently the laminated pieces depending on the hardness wanted. Thicker pieces give a harder texture than thinner ones. It would also have been obvious to make the product to have any varying density depending on the texture desired for the product; applicant has not shown any expected property from the claimed density.

Claims 3 and 6 are free of prior art because there is no teaching in Leibfred of forming the layer from at least two flakes.

Claims 11-50 are free of prior art because Leibfred et al do not disclose the method as claimed and the product resulting from the method.

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-50 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP

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§ 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Lien T Tran whose telephone number is 703-308-1868. The examiner can normally be reached on Wed-Fri. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0661.

October 2, 2003


LIEN TRAN
PRIMARY EXAMINER


Group 1700